PRESS RELEASE

MARCH 19, 2019

FROM: JUDGE JEFFRY L. JACK

LAST NIGHT, AT THE REQUEST OF GOVERNOR KELLY, I ASKED TO WITHDRAW MY NAME FROM NOMINATION FOR A VACANCY ON THE KANSAS COURT OF APPEALS.

WHEN A PERSON APPEARS IN FRONT OF ME IN COURT, I DO NOT ASK THEM FOR THEIR PARTY AFFILIATIONS OR THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS, NOR DO I ALLOW MY OWN OPINIONS ABOUT ISSUES OF THE DAY TO COLOR MY JUDGMENT REGARDING THEIR CASE. I APPLY THE LAW TO THE FACTS AS I FIND THEM. I WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME ON THE COURT OF APPEALS. I ALSO WAIT UNTIL I HAVE ALL THE FACTS BEFORE I MAKE A DECISION.

UNFORTUNATELY, SENATE PRESIDENT SUSAN WAGLE IS NOT BOUND BY THE SAME ETHIC. SHE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT SHE HAD ALREADY MADE UP HER MIND, AND BECAUSE OF HER POSITION THE MIND OF THE SENATE, BEFORE I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A FULL AND FAIR HEARING. SHE BASED HER DECISION ON SOME TWEETS I MADE ON A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OVER A PERIOD OF A FEW MONTHS TWO YEARS AGO.

WHILE I WAS ONCE A REPUBLICAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE, I AM NO LONGER A MEMBER OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY: I BELIEVE A JUDGE SHOULD BE NON-PARTISAN, AND SO I AM REGISTERED AS AN INDEPENDENT. HOWEVER, THAT DOES NOT MEAN JUDGES DO NOT HAVE PERSONAL OPINIONS ABOUT IMPORTANT ISSUES. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS TO KEEP THOSE PERSONAL OPINIONS SEPARATE FROM PROFESSIONAL OPINIONS.

THE TWEETS THAT PRESIDENT WAGLE COMPLAINS ABOUT AND MISCHARACTERIZES WERE ANTI-VIOLENCE, ANTI-DISCRIMINATION, AND ANTI-HYPOCRISY. THEY WERE IN SUPPORT OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT. THEY WERE DIRECTED AT THOSE IN POWER ABUSING THEIR POWER. THEY WERE NON-PARTISAN; IT JUST HAPPENED THAT THOSE IN POWER WERE THOSE SUPPORTED BY PRESIDENT WAGLE.

I POINTED OUT WHEN THOSE IN POWER, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WERE MYSOGINISTIC, RACSIST AND HYPOCRITICAL. I BELIEVE ALL CITIZENS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POSITION, HAVE A RIGHT AND A RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SO. IRONICALLY, PRESIDENT WAGLE'S CHIEF COMPLAINT WAS THAT I POINTED OUT ON TWITTER THOSE TYPES OF TWEETS SENT OUT BY THE PRESIDENT.

MY MISTAKE WAS IN A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF TWITTER. I BELIEVED I WAS COMMUNICATING PRIVATE OPINIONS TO A FEW TWITTER "FOLLOWERS'. I DID NOT UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WERE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC. I AM SORRY TO GOVERNOR KELLY THAT MY IGNORANCE OF THE MECHANISMS OF TWITTER CAUSED HER ANY EMBARASSMENT. I AM NOT SORRY FOR BELIEVING THAT VIOLENCE IS BAD; THAT DISCRIMINATION IS BAD; THAT MYSOGINY IS

BAD; OR THAT HYPOCRISY IS BAD.